

only took four. Autumn sugaring did not improve, for there was an almost entire absence of the usual autumn species, and the *Xanthia* failed altogether to put in an appearance.—A. H. HAMM, Hatherley Road, Reading : December, 1894.

Rare Diptera captured in 1894.—Although the season of 1894 was generally considered a bad one for insects, I was fortunate enough to take several good species of *Diptera*.

A nice series of the curious fly *Alophora hemiptera* was taken in Matley Bog, New Forest, in July.

The *Echinomyia* were well represented, as I captured five out of the six British species. *E. ursina*, Mg., occurred in swarms at Wyre Forest in March, and in April and May two specimens at Sutton Park. *E. ferox*, Pz., one from Wyre, August 5th. *E. lurida*, F. (1), and *grossa*, L., at the New Forest ; the last named being fairly common.

Cheilosia grossa and *flavicornis*, F., occurred together on the swallow blooms at Wyre and Sutton, this being the first record of *flavicornis* from the Midlands. A fine ♀ *C. chrysocoma*, Mg. (the third British record), fell to my lot at Selsley in May, also one *vulpina*, Mg., and half a dozen specimens of *Brachyopa bicolor*, Fln., from the same locality. One specimen of *C. soror*, Zett., was captured in my garden.

Orthoneura elegans, Mg., and *nobilis*, Fln. ; I met with these two species for the first time in Sutton Park.

A curious pale form of the common *Platychirus peltatus*, with the first pair of spots large and square, occurred at Painswick.

In spite of the almost sunless summer, some good *Syrphi* fell to my net. The principal ones being *triangulifer*, Zett., from Selsley (new to the list) ; *lineola*, Zett., five from Wyre ; *vittiger*, Zett., one from Sutton, this being the first time I have taken these three species ; *nitidicollis*, Mg., common at Wyre, and one from Sutton. Towards the end of August, I noticed some large *Syrphi* flying among pine trees (no doubt searching for *Aphides*) ; they turned out to be *pyrastri* and *selenitica*, and as I had not previously seen *selenitica* at Sutton, I worked hard for them. They were very difficult to capture, mostly keeping from ten to thirty feet from the ground ; however, I succeeded in getting a nice series of ten. Both species were also captured on palings in a semi-torpid state on October 14th, an exceptionally late date for *Syrphi*.

Didea alneti : I captured three specimens of this rarity, one at Sutton, the yellow form, and two at Wyre, the bands being a lovely pale blue.

In a field at Bournemouth I swept a ♂ of the pretty little *Pelecocera tricolor*, Mg., and at the same place on the shore took a pair of *Actora æstum*, Mg., on jelly fish.

Arctophila mussitans was met with for the first time at Sutton, and I have one from Wyre, so we may now consider it a Midland insect.

On hawthorn bloom, in June, at Wyre, I was decidedly lucky in capturing a pair of *Criorrhina asilica*, Fln., and a ♂ *Pocota apiformis*, Schrk., both for the first time.

Five out of the seven British species of *Xylota* were taken, *seguis*, *sylvarum* and *aliens* at Sutton, *lenta* and *florum* (1) in July, at the New Forest, the last named being new to me ; at the same time and place *Dioctria Reinhardi* and *flavipes*

occurred, and one each of *Laphria marginata*, L., *Panponerus germanicus*, L. *Myiolepta luteola* fell to my share; no doubt had the weather been fine several of these species would have been met with more freely.

Tabani have been scarce this season, the only one I met with commonly being *Chrysops quadratus*, in July, near Matley Bog: it was a nuisance, three or four settling on the hands at one time and drawing blood viciously.

Among *Tipulidæ*, *Idioptera pulchella*, Mg., with its curious semi-apterous ♀, was met with for the first time at Sutton. *Ephelia varinervis*, Zett., also turned up, but only one specimen.

Liogma glabrata and *Limnobia bifasciata* occurred in the New Forest, where also I captured a species of *Dicranomyia*, which seems undescribed. *Limnobia nigropunctata*, Schum.: this was common at Wyre Forest, and I afterwards took one at Sutton, also a ♂ *Xiphura atrata*. I have still a large number of insects to identify, but I think enough has been said to show that the year 1894 has not been a poor one for the Dipterist.—RALPH C. BRADLEY, Holly Bank, Sutton Coldfield: December, 1894.

Notes from New Zealand.—The present season here is one of the most backward we have experienced; plants and insects are fully a month behind the usual time. On September 30th, the weather being very hot, we decided to make the first entomological expedition of the season. The following were the only species of *Lepidoptera* taken:—one *Protosyncæma steropucha*, several *Simaethis combinatana*, one *Strepsicerates zopherana*, and a long series of a species of *Mallobathra*, which was very abundant, flying rapidly in the hot sunshine. Only two specimens of *Vanessa gonerilla* were seen, and a great paucity of insect life was noticeable generally. On October 10th I found a large number of galls on a small shrub of *Melicope simplex*; some of these resulted in a small Dipteran, apparently allied to *Cecidomyia*. I enclose specimens of both the gall and the Dipteran. I am also sending a series of *Stolotermes ruficeps*, including winged individuals, soldiers, workers, and gravid female. These were taken from a single nest in a rotten log during last May, and, judging from this, the winged individuals make their appearance at all seasons of the year.—G. V. HUDSON, Karori, Wellington, New Zealand: October 23rd, 1894.

[Mr. Austen, of the British Museum, identifies the *Cecidomyiid* as a species of the genus *Hormomyia*, Lw.—Eds.].

Review.

THE COLEOPTERA OF BAJA CALIFORNIA: by G. H. HORN, M.D.

In the Proceedings of the California Academy of Sciences, ser. 2, vol. iv, pp. 302—449, t. 7 (August, 1894), Dr. Horn gives a complete list of the *Coleoptera* of Lower or Baja California, with descriptions of new genera and species. This is a useful contribution to our knowledge of the Coleopterous fauna of a little known region: Lower California having been hitherto a sort of “no man’s land” amongst Entomologists. The region in question is not included within the scope of Godman and Salvin’s *Biologia Centrali-Americana*, and Leconte, Horn, and other North American Entomologists exclude it from their lists of the *Coleoptera* of America